

BEST COPY

AVAILABLE

State OKs Russian Texts Conditionally

Four books that may be used by Hoosier high schools to teach Russian were approved conditionally yesterday by the State Textbook Commission.

The condition requires publishers must submit written approval from the Central Intelligence Agency.

William L. Wilson, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, said a CIA spokesman already has told him there is "nothing subversive" in the four books and that all are published by reputable firms.

Wilson confessed that none of the members of the state commission could read Russian. But he said they were looked over by some "college professors" before the commission approved them.

The teaching of Russian in the first three years of high school was approved about two years ago by the State General Education Commission. It wasn't until yesterday, however, that textbooks to be used were selected.

The four books are "Spoken Russian," written by I. M. Lesnin and Luba Petrova and published by Henry Holt & Co.; "Learn Russian," written by Andrei K. Anastasion and published by Noble & Noble; "Basic Russian," written by Mircha H. Fayer, and published by Pitman Publishing Co.; and "First Course in Russian," written by Joseph C. Doherty and Roberta L. Marinas and published by D. C. Heath & Co.

Wilson said "Spoken Russian" is used by the U.S. Armed Forces Institute. Anastasion is an instructor in Russian at the University of

Utan and Fayer heads the Russian department at Middlebury College.

Wilson said he doubts the four textbooks will have widespread use. Only pupils who plan to use Russian in their careers probably will take the course, he said.

CPYRGHT